



City of Glendale
FIRE DEPARTMENT
Office of Public Information
www.glendalefire.com



"Community First"

Press Release

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Help Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

(Glendale, CA) As Southern Californians, we are fortunate to have sunshine and warmth almost all year round. However, occasionally a winter storm passes through bringing cold temperatures and requiring the use of heaters and fireplaces to stay warm. In 2011, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 53,600 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 400 civilian deaths, 1,520 civilian injuries, and \$893 million in direct property damage. These fires accounted for 14% of all reported home fires between the months of December and February.

Follow the heating safety tips below to keep you and your family safe and warm as the temperature drops:

- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms monthly.
- Keep anything that can burn (clothing, blankets, plastic toys, etc.) at least 3 feet away from heating equipment such as the furnace, fireplace, woodstove, or portable heater.
- Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Never use an oven or stove for heating.
- Remember to turn off portable heaters when leaving your house or going to bed.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.
- When using a fuel-burning space heater, always use the manufacturer recommended fuel source.
- Make sure to place a sturdy screen in front of a fireplace to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- When removing ashes from a fireplace, make sure the ashes are cold before putting them in a metal container prior to disposing.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions or hire a professional to install chimney and chimney connectors for fireplaces and woodstoves.
- Be sure that all fuel burning equipment (fireplace) has a vent to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Do not use candles to warm a room. Always blow out candles when leaving the house or going to bed.
- If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not attempt to the light the appliance. Turn off all of the controls and open doors and windows. Call the gas company for service.

The mission of the Glendale Fire Department is to protect life and property by providing the highest level of service to the community. For more information about the Glendale Fire Department, go to www.glendalefire.org and follow GFD on twitter @GlendaleCAFire.

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